

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) An ink having a viscosity less than 20 mPa.s (cP) at 20°C, comprising the components:
 - (a) a water-dissipatable polymer with pendant hydroxy functional groups, wherein the water-dissipatable polymer has a Mn less than 25,000 and is prepared by copolymerizing:
 - i) 1 to 95% of monomers having hydroxy functional groups, or a group which is convertible to a hydroxy functional group;
 - ii) 1 to 95% of monomers providing water-dispersing groups;
 - iii) 0 to 95% of monomers which are free from water-dispersing groups and hydroxy functional groupswherein i) + ii) + iii) add up to 100;
said water-dissipatable polymer having colorant attached thereto by means of a said pendant hydroxy functional group through a covalent -O- link; and
 - (b) a liquid medium.
2. (Currently Amended) An ink according to claim 1 wherein the water-dissipatable polymer is obtained by the reaction of a water-dissipatable polymer with pendant hydroxy functional groups with a colorant having a functional group capable of reacting with said pendant hydroxy functional groups.
3. (Currently Amended) An ink ~~according to claim 1~~ having a viscosity less than 20 mPa.s (cP) at 20 °C, comprising the components:
 - (a) a water-dissipatable polymer with pendant hydroxy functional groups, wherein the water-dissipatable polymer has a Mn less than 25,000 and is prepared by copolymerizing:

- i) 1 to 95% of monomers having hydroxy functional groups, or a group which is convertible to a hydroxy functional group;
 - ii) 1 to 95% of monomers providing water-dispersing groups;
 - iii) 0 to 95% of monomers which are free from water-dispersing groups and hydroxy functional groups
- wherein i) + ii) + iii) add up to 100;
said water-dissipatable polymer having colorant attached thereto by means of a hydroxy functional group through a covalent -O- link; and
- (b) a liquid medium; wherein the colorant is attached to the water-dissipatable polymer by means of a reaction between a pendant hydroxy group on the polymer with a colorant precursor thereby forming a covalent bond there between therebetween and subsequently converting the colorant precursor to a colorant.

4. (Currently Amended) An ink ~~according to claim 1~~ having a viscosity less than 20 mPa.s (cP) at 20 °C, comprising the components:

- (a) a water-dissipatable polymer with pendant hydroxy functional groups, wherein the water-dissipatable polymer has a Mn less than 25,000 and is prepared by copolymerizing:
- i) 1 to 95% of monomers having hydroxy functional groups, or a group which is convertible to a hydroxy functional group;
 - ii) 1 to 95% of monomers providing water-dispersing groups;
 - iii) 0 to 95% of monomers which are free from water-dispersing groups and hydroxy functional groups
- wherein i) + ii) + iii) add up to 100;
said water-dissipatable polymer having colorant attached thereto by means of a hydroxy functional group through a covalent -O- link; and
- (b) a liquid medium; wherein the colorant is attached to the water-dissipatable polymer by means of a reaction between a pendant hydroxy group on the polymer with a bridging compound thereby forming a covalent bond there

~~between~~ therebetween and subsequently reacting the bridging compound with a colorant or colorant precursor.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A water-dissipatable polymer~~ An ink according to claim 4 wherein the colorant precursor is converted to a colorant by a diazotisation reaction.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A water-dissipatable polymer~~ An ink according to claim 5 wherein the diazotisation reaction comprises:

- (i) diazotising an amino group in the colorant precursor using a diazotising agent; and
- (ii) coupling the product of step (i) with a coupling component forming an azo group there between.

7. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1 wherein the water-dissipatable polymer is an olefinic polymer.

8. (Currently amended) An ink according to claim 7 wherein the olefinic polymer is obtained from the polymerisation of ~~one or more~~ 1 to 95% of olefinically unsaturated monomers having water-dispersing groups, ~~and one or more~~ 1 to 95% of olefinically unsaturated monomers having hydroxy functional groups or a group which is convertible to a hydroxy functional group; and 0 to 95% of optionally in the presence of one or more olefinically unsaturated monomers which are free from water-dispersing and hydroxy functional groups, wherein the amounts of said olefinically unsaturated monomers add up to 100.

9. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1 wherein component (a) is completely dissipated in component (b).

10. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1 which comprises from 0.5 to 50 parts of component (a) and from 50 to 99.5 parts of component (b), wherein all parts are by weight and the number of parts of (a) + (b) = 100.

11. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises water and an organic solvent.

12. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 11 where component (b) comprises from 40 to 95 parts of water and from 2 to 60 parts of water-miscible organic solvent.

13. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1 for use in an ink jet printer.

14. (Currently amended) A process for forming an image on a substrate comprising applying thereto an ink using an ink jet printer, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ink is as defined in claim 1.

15. (Previously presented) A paper or an overhead projector slide printed with an ink as defined in claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) An ink jet printer cartridge, optionally refillable, containing an ink as defined in claim 1.

17. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1, wherein at least 85% of the pendant hydroxy functional groups are covalently linked through -O- with the colorant.

18. (Previously presented) An ink according to claim 1, wherein the water-dissipatable polymer is prepared by copolymerizing:

- i) 2 to 90% of monomers having hydroxy functional groups or group which is convertible to hydroxy functional group;
- ii) 5 to 90% of monomers providing water-dispersing groups; and
- iii) 5 to 90% by weight of monomers which are free from water-dispersing groups and hydroxy functional groups;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) add up to 100.